

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 1924



Jennie Rantz Dornblum, Candidate for Congress

Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania
Labor Party

Feminist Notes

Portuguese Council Of Women

DR. ADELAIDE CABETE, President of the National Council of Portuguese Women, has just sent to **EQUAL RIGHTS** a report of the first feminist convention ever held in Portugal. She writes that the resolutions adopted by the convention were as follows:

"Inasmuch as this Congress recognizes the demand for political rights as a just and necessary demand on the part of Portuguese women, this Congress of feminism and education deems it most opportune that electoral rights and administrative eligibility be conceded to Portuguese women.

"A woman who marries a foreigner should not lose her nationality except in the case of her choosing that of her husband at the time of marriage by formal declaration.

"A woman who has chosen the nationality of her husband should, in case of widowhood, divorce or simple separation, be able to recover her nationality.

"The conference proposes the increase of medical assistance for venereal diseases, and the conference encourages, above all, the development of knowledge of personal and preventive hygiene by means of conferences, etc."

The Women's Indian Association

THE Women's Indian Association, with headquarters at Adyar, Madras, India, announces that it has formed 47 branches in 20 different cities, and that it numbers over 2500 members. The president is Dr. Annie Besant and the secretary is Mrs. M. E. Consius.

The organization states its object as follows:

"To present to women their responsibility as daughters of India.

"To help them to realize that the future of India lies largely in their hands for, as wives and mothers, they have the task of training and guiding and forming the character of the future rulers of India.

"To secure for women the vote for municipal and legislative councils as it is or may be granted to men.

"To secure for women the right to be elected as members on all municipal and legislative councils.

"To band women into groups for the purpose of self-development, education and for the definite service of others."

The Association publishes an official monthly paper, *Stri-Dharma*. Articles are printed in both English and Indian. The paper is dedicated "To the women of India today, and to the memory of the Indian women of all past ages who have set an example of courage, wisdom and devotion to truth."

Women And League Of Nations

WITH the convening of the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva, the first week in September, the question of the participation of women in the activities of the League comes again to the fore. Mrs. W. Coombe Tennant, J.P., Substitute Delegate for Great Britain to the Third Assembly of the League, writes, concerning women's place in the League, as follows in the *Woman's Year Book*, which has recently been published in England:

"Certain of the smaller nations had included women among their delegates to the Assemblies of 1920 and 1921, but it was not until 1922 that this was done by any of the 'Big Four' who, according to the terms of the Covenant, have each a permanent representative on the Council of the League—Great Britain, France, Belgium and Italy. It was, therefore, a matter of great satisfaction when the British Government announced its intention to include a woman in the British delegation to the Third Assembly, which was to meet in September, 1922. The writer of this note received an invitation to proceed to Geneva as a member of the British delegation, and at the Third Assembly she was placed in charge as the sole representative for Great Britain on the Fifth Commission, the Commission which deals with the humanitarian activities of the League.

"At this Third Assembly there were, in addition, five other women acting as delegates. Australia sent Mrs. G. E. Dale, Sweden sent Madame Anne Bugge Wicksell, a Master of Law; Norway sent Dr. Kristine Bonnevie, who is a professor at the University of Christiania; Denmark sent Mlle. Henni Forchammer, president of the National Council of Danish women and a member of the Central Administration of the International Women's Council, and Rumania sent Mlle. Helene Vacaresco, who has done good work in Rumania as a member of the Executive Council of the Rumanian League of Nations Society and who is well known as an author.

"Anyone with experience of the actual working of the League quickly realizes the great value of its Secretariat, which forms, in effect, an International Civil Service of the highest quality. A number of women are serving on it, and some important posts are held by them, notably those of Secretary to the Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children and to the Social Section, both of which are held by Dame Rachel Crowdy.

"On the staff of the International Labour Office women are also doing good work, and at the Annual Conferences

Madame Kjelsberg of Denmark has been the official delegate for her Government, whilst Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Constant Smith—the latter in the capacity of technical advisor on the subject of immigration as it affects women—have done useful work.

"Though America is not a member of the League, she has a representative on the League's Health Committee in the person of Dr. Josephine Baker of the U. S. A. Health Department. Another American woman who is giving excellent service is Mrs. Hamilton Wright, who is a member of the Opium Commission and who also has been acting as an assessor for her Government.

"The only woman from South America to serve as an official representative on a League Committee is Dr. Pauline Luisha of Uruguay. France has a very distinguished woman as one of her representatives on the Committee for Intellectual Co-operation—Madame Curie. On this committee Mlle. Bonnevie of Norway is also serving. Madame Jeppe and Miss Emma Cushman are the two women members of the League's Commission on the deportation of women and children in Turkey and Asia Minor. This Commission has its seat in Constantinople, and is engaged in active work on the spot in rescuing and caring for these unfortunate people."

English Federation Of Women Civil Servants

ONE of the growing and prominent organizations of women in Great Britain, working to raise the status of women, is the Federation of Women Civil Servants. The objects of the organization, according to its official statement, are:

1. "To protect and promote the common interests of women in the Civil Service.
2. "To remove the artificial restrictions placed on their employment.
3. "To secure that their remuneration for services rendered shall not be differentiated by reason of sex.
4. "To secure the free and unfettered admission of women to all appointments in the service.
5. "To secure the removal of the civil and political disabilities of women."

The headquarters of the Federation is at 18 Russell Square, W. C. 1, London. The chairman is J. W. Fisk. The Federation publishes an official monthly organ called *Opportunity*.

Women Vote In Kenya, Africa

UNDER the new Constitution of Kenya, South Africa, all adult Indians, male and female, are given the communal vote.

The Election Campaign

PENNSYLVANIA has become the hub of the feminist wheel that is keeping the "Women for Congress" campaign constantly moving. That state must glow with a good deal of justifiable pride in its pre-eminence in this latest advance in the forward march of women.

Four women candidates nominated for Congress in that state have led the Woman's Party to concentrate its efforts there. Headquarters have been opened in Philadelphia, from where the intricacies of the campaign will be directed. As the campaign progresses and the fight waxes warm workers will be sent to the districts as additional help is needed. Several Woman's Party members are now in the midst of the campaign, doing their utmost to bring to realization the dream that had its birth at the "Women for Congress" conference at Westport-on-Lake Champlain in August. Everywhere they have met with interest. Whether constituents are friendly or hostile, they are interested in the novelty of the idea, and requests for information are constantly giving the campaigners an opening for real educative work.

Even should the campaign fail of electing any of the women candidates, this phase of the work will not have been lost. Thousands of women, and men, too, who had never heard before of the Equal Rights Amendment, or the struggle for Equal Rights, or the discriminations against women on which that struggle is based, are hearing today of these things and are learning of the reason why a feminist movement is essential, and how it will serve the best interests of the national life. Many have needed only this awakening.

The Campaign Fund

Have You Done Your Part In the "Women for Congress" Campaign?

Everyone cannot go to Congress to carry on the fight for Equal Rights. But everyone can help others to go.

Campaigns Cost Money

If you cannot go to Congress; if you cannot campaign for others who can go, you can always help in the easiest way—by giving money. That does not require the sacrifice of time and energy that the candidate and campaigners must make, but it is just as necessary a service.

Send Your Contributions to the
National Woman's Party,
Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C.

The four Pennsylvania women candidates are all members of the Woman's Party. They have all been identified with progressive work. They are women who can creditably represent their state and their country because of their high ideals.

Janet Fouts, national organizer of the Woman's Party, has this week joined the campaigning forces and is now in Pottstown, Pa., assisting Anna Van Skite, nominee for Congress from the ninth con-

gressional district. Miss Fouts is a cousin of Susan B. Anthony.

Anna McCue, national organizer of the Woman's Party, is campaigning in Philadelphia for Jennie Dornblum. Miss McCue is a resident of Mrs. Dornblum's district and has herself been a worker in the hosiery mills, having started work there when a small child. Her interests and sympathies are keenly allied with the laboring classes, among whom she is now campaigning. Mrs. Dornblum's district is in that part of Philadelphia which is largely populated by factory workers and day laborers whose interests she wishes to represent.

Mabel Vernon, executive secretary of the Woman's Party, has gone to Meadville, where she is assisting in the campaign of Mrs. Elizabeth Culbertson in the twenty-ninth district. Miss Vernon is one of the most experienced campaigners of the Woman's Party and one of its most eloquent speakers.

Jean Wold, national organizer, is assisting Mrs. Jessie Collett in her campaign in Philadelphia.

Throughout all these districts meetings are being held and the candidates and their campaigners are speaking to the constituents. Women are being urged to register, that their votes may not be challenged at election time. In all the districts the systematic canvassing of the voters is under way. Each day the canvassers set forth armed with campaign literature, telling the voters why they should vote for the women candidates. Publicity is being given to the campaigns in all the papers of the four districts. Each day sees the campaign further under way.

Married Women Teachers

WITH the opening of the school year the Woman's Party is taking up again its campaign to prevent discriminations against married women in the schools. The country over, married women are finding themselves debarred, apparently even more than in past years, from the better paid teaching positions, and there is urgent need of work by all women's organizations to prevent this type of discrimination.

Examples of places where discrimination against married women obtains are Syracuse and Buffalo. P. M. Hughes, superintendent of schools of Syracuse, has just written to the Woman's Party Headquarters:

"The rule of our board concerning the employment of married women as teachers reads as follows:

"Should a female teacher marry, her place shall thereupon become vacant."

"It is not the policy of the board to appoint married women to teaching positions; however, the scarcity of unmarried women to act as supply teachers has made it necessary for us to use married women in that capacity."

Mrs. Mary L. Felton, president of the Board of Education of Buffalo, writes to the Woman's Party:

"All of the teaching positions in the schools of this city are filled from eligible lists, which lists are made up through a system of competitive examinations. A city ordinance passed several years ago limited the eligibility of those desiring to take these examinations. In as much as there is always a long waiting list of teachers

awaiting appointment, and in as much as nearly all of these are local people, the ordinance prohibits married women from taking the examinations. I think the purpose was to give preference to unmarried women presumably dependent on their own efforts for support. The Board of Education has felt it wise to follow the policy originally laid down by the City Council."

Similar instances of discriminations against married women as teachers can be furnished for nearly all parts of the country.

All women interested in helping in the campaign on behalf of the married women teachers are asked to join the Teachers' Council of the National Woman's Party and co-operate in this campaign.

Equal Rights



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Annual Dues.....	\$10.00
Associate Members.....	\$1.00
Founders.....	\$100.00
Life Members.....	\$1,000.00
Endowers.....	\$5,000.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of
women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights
throughout the United States
and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce
this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.]
[House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923,
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.
Introduced in the House of Representatives,
December 13, 1923,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

A Modern Fairy Tale

IT is interesting to note how a new idea, once it has taken root, will grow and grow, till like Jack's beanstalk, there is no seeing where or when it will end. It grows far, far out of sight, and only by clambering up the vine of growth and following it to its terminus can one find how far reaching is the growth.

The "Women for Congress" idea needed only a chance to take root. Given this chance by the National Woman's Party it has spread so fast and so far that one must climb very fast to keep up with it. Those who have followed the campaign step by step have not lost sight of it. The idea which at first encountered incredulity, and even a little merriment in some quarters, has met with such popularity that one state has nominated four women. Several other states have made similar nominations, and now their men-folk are standing back with rather awe-stricken faces wondering where this step is going to lead them.

For to tell the truth few realized the importance of such a step until the Woman's Party, through its "Women for Congress" conference in August, crystallized sentiment and began to work for organization among women to elect women. A complimentary nomination in a district patently hopeless was one thing; a possible election through the mustering of friendly forces into united effort is quite another thing.

That the idea of women in Congress, though new in its practical application, must have existed in a dormant state for some time in the minds of progressive people at large, is evidenced by the manner in which the idea has been accepted. The period of shocked amazement which usually follows any forward step has been absurdly short. Almost instantly people saw the possibilities and began to work for this new end. In some states men have even gone out of their way to offer the women a nomination where no woman candidate has voluntarily appeared.

One man was heard to say at the Meadowmount pageant when he read the "Women for Congress" slogan on the program, "And why not? I hadn't thought of it before they mentioned it, but why not? We have tried almost everything else and look what we got! I'm in favor of giving them a chance anyway to see what they will do."

Evidently plenty of others concur with him. As material proof look at the number of petitions secured by two congressional candidates in Pennsylvania, who in a week's time were able to show the necessary 1000 signatures to place them on the La Follette ticket this fall, as well as the Democratic and Prohibition tickets on which they were nominated. That doesn't look as if the world were not ready for women legislators.

Equal Rights And The Law

PEOPLE who are unacquainted with police records probably do not realize how greatly the proportion of law-abiding voters was increased when women acquired the franchise. In a report to the Governor of Maryland recently issued by the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City, it appears that in the year 1923 there were 74,295 arrests made in Baltimore, a city comprising approximately 750,000 inhabitants. Of those arrested, 66,333 are listed as "male" and 7962 as "female."

From these figures it appears that no mistake was made on the ground of law and order when Maryland women were given equal political rights with their brothers. What happened in Maryland is typical of what happened everywhere in our country.

Meet One of Our Candidates

AS the "Women for Congress" campaign progresses, the personali-

ties of the women candidates are becoming daily a greater point of interest. EQUAL RIGHTS will each week publish a story of one of the Woman's Party candidates, that far-distant supporters of the campaign may feel in personal touch with the standard-bearers, who form the vanguard of women's march to freedom and equality.

Jennie Rantz Dornblum, a candidate for the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, is in herself a colorful study of the phase of life she most desires to help. She has been deeply interested in all humanitarian movements, and especially those that deal with the laboring classes. She is prominent in the Woman's Trade Union League, and a member of the Pennsylvania executive board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She is also prominent in the Ethical Culture Society and in Young Democracy, an organization that conducts an Open Forum for the discussion of problems of the day. She is an active worker in the Parent-Teacher Association, a branch of which she organized in the school her small son attends, and is deeply interested in working for improved conditions in the school. In 1922 she served on the Pennsylvania Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners.

Mrs. Dornblum was a worker for many years in the suffrage campaign and is a member of the Woman's Party.

Mrs. Dornblum's name will appear on the ballot in November on the Labor Party ticket, the name by which the La Follette ticket is known in Pennsylvania. She also has the endorsement of the Socialist Party.

The story of her life, told in her own words, is an illuminating recital of the surmounting of adverse conditions. She writes:

"I WAS born in Philadelphia, in 1890, of Russian parents who had been driven from their home by an Ukase. Though it would have been possible for them to move to another province in Russia, they preferred to leave entirely the home where material comforts were obtained at the sacrifice of personal liberty. They emigrated to 'Free America.' Here they endured all the poverty that falls to the lot of the more cultivated emigrant. My father had no trade. At home he had been business manager for a large machine works, and in his spare time was studying architecture. In Philadelphia he was absolutely at a loss. Ignorance of the language made all his attainments useless as means of livelihood; nor could he go as a

factory 'hand,' because his hands were untrained.

"So my mother—with two babies to care for—turned her housewifely knowl-

What Women Are Thinking

ELEANOR RATHBONE

In ENGLISH WOMAN'S YEAR BOOK (1924)

"One kind of service has never been directly remunerated and yet it is the most essential of all, the service of those who bear and rear the future workers and citizens. They and their children in their infancy have to be provided for and they have been provided for by the extraordinarily clumsy device of treating them as 'dependents' on men's earnings and roughly adjusting the latter so that it may be possible for wives and children to be maintained out of them.

"It is generally assumed that this is more economical than making direct provision, but as it involves the necessity of treating every man as though he were the head of a family and as though all families were the same size, it is really the cause of an immense waste and mad adjustment of the world's resources.

"Since the war the poverty of many countries and the demand of the workers for a higher standard of life in others has led to the introduction of various experiments in family allowances and motherhood endowment. In this direction lies, I believe, the best hope that married women will at last achieve a position of real economic independence, when their share in the world's wealth will depend on the value of their own contribution to its services and not on that of their husbands."

edge of sewing and pressing to practical purposes and got bundles of shirts from a factory to finish and press. All day my mother pressed—she who had been reared in a comfortable middle-class home, and who until the day she sailed for America had employed a nurse for her children—and half the night she ripped and sewed over again the crooked collars that my poor, blundering father had clumsily stitched. In between times my parents fed the children, stuffed into place the pillows with which the leaking roof of the attic they occupied was patched, and taught themselves English by reading 'Les Misérables'—light, cheerful reading matter selected because they had read it in Russian.

ALL through this period they were buoyed up by the thought that their chil-

dren would grow up as Americans—able to enjoy all the advantages, social and educational, of a free land, without the terrible struggle to adjust themselves in a foreign country. And they must have become acclimated very quickly, for though my early childhood was in this period—I was born a year after their arrival in America—my memory does not reach to a time when anything seemed lacking. As far back as my mind can reach I remember a comfortable and cheerful home in which English was the language used.

"WHEN I was five and a half years old my father died, leaving my mother with five children, the oldest nine, the youngest an infant. Again poverty—but my mother would neither return to her parents in Russia nor place her children in an asylum. So we grew up with the daily sight of our mother sitting at the sewing machine till her head fell forward on the machine—faint or asleep. Then she would start up, collect herself and again work on. The only rest she took was to stretch out for a few hours on a couch in her workroom. Even when told that tuberculosis would set in unless she took more rest, my mother worked night and day in her desperate efforts to keep the family together and send her children to school. Perhaps she was fanatical in her zeal for education. She was sending her oldest daughter to high school when she might have sent her to a factory; it was before the days of strict enforcement of the child labor laws. But my mother had come here to educate her children and escape tyranny. All that she had suffered in the days when she was a stranger in a foreign land; all the humiliation my father had endured when he painfully acquired a trade while my mother worked for both of them; all this that they had gone through in order to raise their children in America would have gone for naught. She would have felt unfaithful to the ideal for which he had given his life and she her youth and health if she had then sent her children to a factory to labor and grow up dull and unintelligent.

"Splendid people have gone into factories as children and grown up to be fine citizens without much schooling. But to my mother the schools of America were a holy thing. Coming from Russia, where the percentage of Jewish children admitted even to expensive private schools was small, and free public schools for higher education unknown, she was a

zealot. The second generation may grow up indifferent to blessings that have been handed down to them, but not my mother. She was of the first—the pioneer generation.

“WITH such antecedents I grew up keenly appreciative of the public school and of freedom. Even while attending school I tried from early childhood to help my mother. When I was eight years old I sold papers after school. But very few pennies could I earn. I averaged twenty cents a day gross sales, of which only ten cents were profit.

“When I was twelve I worked during the summer vacation—turning pockets inside out or outside in, in a garment factory.

“This did not last long, however. Regular work started after I graduated from grammar school, at thirteen. During the vacation I worked in a type foundry, expecting to go to high school in the fall. But when September came my mother was too weak to work day and night, and her daytime earnings were insufficient. With an ache in my heart that no subsequent suffering has ever equalled, I saw the other girls and boys go to high school while I remained in the type foundry. A whole year I worked there, in the meantime going to night school. But there was only a ten-weeks’ course in the school, and it did not satisfy me. I pined to go to high school, so the following year my mother went back to night work. My sister got an additional job at bookkeeping, where she worked evenings and Sundays, and I left the type foundry and went to high school. I revelled in it. Not only the schooling, but the atmosphere was a joy to me. After the ugly factory, where the men spat tobacco juice, told nasty jokes and used vile language, the school, with its remoteness from vulgarity, its wholesome jollity, its stimulating studies, seemed a place of sweetness and light.

“BUT it was not so to be. Neither my mother nor my sister could stand the double work. Indeed, when I realized this I insisted on going back to work. I was of more sturdy constitution than either of them, so I decided to leave school, go to work in the daytime and study at night.

“Back to the type foundry I went, with its long hours, from seven to five-thirty, its stale chewing tobacco smell and its bare brick walls. I felt that I was returning to a prison from which I had made one unsuccessful attempt to escape, and, having failed, was now doomed forever. I showed a cheerful face to my mother, but I felt hopeless.

“Yet, as I look back at it now I feel that for me there was a value in all this. Only by living through it myself could I

know what child labor means. Widow’s compensation, that might have saved my mother’s life; an eight-hour day for labor; strict enforcement of labor laws—these are no mere phrases to me. I have lived through the need for them.

“Later on I studied stenography at night and did escape from the factory. And from then on I felt equipped with a trade and was free to take up purely cultural studies. I took English at Drexel Institute. Upon graduating from that course I took up history at the night school; then Latin, algebra and geometry at Temple University, and later on economics and sociology at the same institution.

“All the time I was reading and attending lectures in an attempt to understand the problems of the working class—irregularity of labor, fluctuation of prices and wages, uncertainty of jobs, strikes, panics, poverty. I came to feel that just as surely as the man who invests his capital needs safeguards for his investments, so the working man and woman who invest their only capital—their strength—should be protected in their right to earn a living; that the working man should have a voice in the management of the business in which he invests his life.

“DURING the trolley strike of 1908 I helped to organize the wives of the strikers into a women’s auxiliary to keep them keyed up, to make them strengthen the strike rather than weaken it. I addressed meetings at the Labor Lyceum and in Kensington.

“During the shirt waist strike in 1910 I worked in a house-to-house canvass for funds to support the strikers. I also addressed meetings of trade unions and friendly organizations and solicited donations for the strike.

“A few months after the strike I became secretary of the Shirt Waist Makers’ Union. And when the union became too poor to employ me I gave up the position and for several months gave to the union evenings and whatever time I could spare from my regular position as physician’s secretary without any pay. Later on one of the shirt waist makers who had studied at night school took over the work. My feeling in the matter was that wherever a member of the trade is able to act as executive in the union he or she is preferable to an outsider.

“In the meantime I was conducting a column called ‘Woman’s Part’ in a weekly paper called the *Philadelphia Socialist*, since gone out of existence. And the better to fit myself for such work I took a course in English composition at the University of Pennsylvania.

“In 1913 I married Isaac Dornblum, at

that time a labor organizer, whom I met while working for the Shirt Waist Makers’ Union. Though he was born and raised on the other side of the world, our ideas and ideals were similar. Through the wondering and puzzlement of adolescents pondering the world’s problems, we had arrived at the conclusion that the troubles of the working class are the most pressing; other adjustments will follow. So we both found ourselves in the labor movement.

“BUT the special handicap under which women suffered I felt must be removed now, so I worked for woman suffrage. I was the first chairman of the Twelfth Ward Equal Suffrage League. Under Alice Paul I helped in the suffrage campaign—ushering, speaking, selling papers, parading Chestnut street as a ‘Sandwich Man,’ addressing street meetings and writing in my column about the need for the ballot. From time to time I wrote leaflets for the Socialist Party on the woman question and the need of the working woman for the ballot.

“For a while after my marriage I did social work among young girls. And what I saw of suffering due to ignorance, poverty and neglect in childhood confirmed my conviction that working people need more. In every way their lives are cramped and the children suffer. The young girls I came in contact with had been led into harm through lack of wholesome recreation. Born and reared in the slums, their tastes were vitiated. Mothers, engrossed in earning a living, had left the children to grow up on the streets. Few of the girls had been forced into white slavery by starvation; just the cramped, ugliness of miserable homes and the lack of sympathy with and from their bitter parents had driven them out to roll in the gutter.

“Then for a few years the kitchen and nursery engrossed me. My son Arthur was born April 6th, 1917—the day the United States entered the war. As I lay on the delivery table resting between the spasms of pain, I saw the glaring headline in the paper the doctor was reading. When the baby was born my feelings were mixed. Relief and joy were mingled with the painful thought that it is a terrible thing to bring into a warring world a boy who may in his manhood be called to endure the horrors of war. Two years later my daughter Marian was born.

“Busy I undoubtedly was and am still. But the children do not turn my interests entirely into the home. On the contrary, I feel more keenly the responsibility of a citizen. Through me the race has continuity. I must help to make a better world for my children and all the world’s children.”

Protest to Government on Married Woman's Name

THE principle of Equal Rights for which the National Woman's Party stands is constantly meeting with opposition from the Federal Government Department. This week the Woman's Party filed a protest with the Secretary of the Interior of the United States against his recent decision that a married woman employed by the national government must sign her husband's name to the payroll in order to draw her pay check.

The protest was signed by Alice Paul, vice-president of the Woman's Party, and attached to it was a brief prepared by Burnita Shelton Matthews, legal research secretary of the Woman's Party, in support of the request to have the ruling reversed. If the protest is not effective, a deputation from the Woman's Party will wait upon the Secretary of the Interior.

"When the National Equal Rights Amendment is passed," said Miss Paul in referring to the action of the department on this subject, "a woman will no longer be compelled to sign her husband's name in order to draw her salary, because no man is obliged to sign his wife's name in order to draw his."

THIS decision with regard to married women employees was made when a dispute arose recently over Dr. Marjorie Mason Jarvis, who is attached to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington. She was married last May to Mr. Charles Lloyd Hutson, but continued to use her own name, the name by which she had become professionally known. She refused to sign her husband's name to the payroll, insisting on her right to retain her own name. She retained Olive Lacy, a member of the Washington Bar and also of the Woman's Party, to contend for her rights. The Comptroller-General of the United States, Mr. J. R. MacCarl, gave a ruling that she must sign her husband's name, and the Secretary of the Interior acted upon this ruling. Since that time Dr. Jarvis has been obliged to sign her husband's name.

The Woman's Party has pointed out in the brief which is submitted that no statute or court decision exists in any state supporting the principle that a woman must take her husband's name; that contracts, judgments, decrees, deeds, pleadings made in the maiden name of a married woman are everywhere valid at law; that the law allows anyone, man or woman, to assume any name he chooses.

THE protest filed by the Woman's Party reads: "September 11, 1924.

"The Honorable

"The Secretary of the Interior,

"Washington, D. C.

"Sir:

"On behalf of the National Woman's

Party I am writing to protest against the recent decision of your department denying the right of a married woman to retain her maiden name while employed in the Government service.

"Your decision that a married woman in the Government service must take the name of her husband handicaps women in their efforts to make names for themselves in professional fields. It is a discrimination against women, since men in the Government service are not compelled to take the names of their wives upon marriage. It is a decision which holds women in an inferior position to men and which we feel ought not to be made by our National Government in these times when Equal Rights between men and women is rapidly coming to prevail.

"We ask you to reconsider your position on this matter, and we submit a brief in support of our request, dealing with the legal aspect of the question and with the various legal points raised by the Comptroller-General.

"Very truly yours,

(Signed) "ALICE PAUL,

"Vice-President."

THE brief submitted by the Woman's Party reads:

IN RE:

RULING THAT MARRIED WOMEN
MUST SIGN HUSBAND'S NAME TO
GOVERNMENT PAYROLLS.

BRIEF OF NATIONAL WOMAN'S
PARTY AGAINST THE RULING.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

"Dr. M. M. J., employe of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, married Mr. C. L. H. on May 24th, 1924. Her surname was changed on the payroll to that of her husband. She objected, insisting that she intended to retain her own name, and that no law required her to take her husband's name. In response to a request for a ruling the Comptroller-General advised the Secretary of the Interior that by law the woman's name changes by marriage, and that the woman physician's name should be changed on the Government payroll accordingly.

"The National Woman's Party, in its own behalf, asks for a reconsideration of the case.

CASES CITED BY COMPTROLLER-
GENERAL DO NOT SUPPORT
RULING.

"To support the theory that the law imposes the husband's surname upon the wife, the Comptroller-General relies upon Carrall v. State, 53 Neb. 431; Ratcliffe v. McDonald, 123 Va. 781; Uihlein v. Gladioux, 74 Ohio 232; Freeman v. Hawkins, 77 Texas 498; Peterson v. Little, 74 Iowa 223; Ansley v. Green, 82 Ga. 181; Fendall v. Goldsmid, 2 P. D. 263.

"In each of these cases the wife had voluntarily taken the name of her husband, thus making his surname hers by

virtue of the common law rule that a person may change his name at will. The question of whether the law imposes the husband's surname upon a wife *against her will* was not involved, and could not have been involved for the obvious reason that each married woman in these cases had elected to take her husband's name.

"It is contended that in the Ohio and Texas cases, supra, the courts expressly held that 'the law confers upon a wife the surname of her husband.' The point decided in the Ohio case was that a woman who had taken her husband's name should be sued by her Christian name and his surname, and not by his full name preceded by the title 'Mrs.' In other words, it was held that a Mrs. Rogers should be sued as Lucy Rogers and not as Mrs. William Rogers.

"In the Texas case, a Texas statute required that notice contain the names of the parties to the action. Notice to a woman in her maiden name was held insufficient, as she had married and taken the name of her husband.

"Therefore it is apparent that the right of a married woman to retain her maiden name was not before the court in these cases, and any remarks the court may have made on the subject constitute mere dicta.

TEXT WRITERS CITED BY COMPTROLLER-GENERAL DO NOT SUPPORT RULING.

"The doctrine that a married woman must take the name of her husband is not supported by the statements of text writers that by custom a woman at marriage loses her own surname and acquires that of her husband. 21 American and English Encyclopedia of Law, 312; 29 Cyc. 264.

"Custom does not have the force of law. It is only a general rule from which the individual may depart. Laffin & Rand Powder Co. v. Steytler, 146 Pa. St. 434. Roberts v. Mosier et al. 34 Ann. Cases 423. In Re Taminosian, 97 Neb. 514, opinion of Sedgwick, J. Hence the taking of the husband's name, being a mere custom, is not obligatory upon the wife.

"Nor is the doctrine that marriage changes the woman's name supported by the statement of Schouler that marriage 'confers' the man's name upon the woman. Schouler Dom. Rel. Sec. 44.

"According to Webster's International Dictionary, 'confer' means 'to grant as a possession; to bestow.' To confer a name means nothing more than authority or permission for the wife to adopt that name. It does not automatically change the woman's name.

STATUTES CITED BY COMPTROLLER-GENERAL DO NOT SUPPORT RULING.

"Reference is made in the Comptroller-General's opinion to the fact that by statute, courts are given power upon divorce to restore to the wife her maiden name. It is insisted that this shows that 'the law presumes the name of the woman changed to that of her husband on contracting the marital relation.'

"Such statutes may recognize that married women often adopt their husbands' names, but they are not authority for

the proposition that marriage alone effects the change. All statutes relating to a mode of changing a name are usually in affirmance and aid of the common law right of a person to take any name he or she chooses. They enable the setting of a definite point of time at which a change shall take effect. Even without statutory authority a woman upon divorce may drop her husband's surname and take her maiden name just as at marriage she dropped her maiden name and took the surname of her husband. *Rich v. Mayer*, 7 N. Y. S. 69. 19 Corpus Juris 454. 18 Law Notes 164.

POINT I.

NO AUTHORITY DENIES RIGHT OF MARRIED WOMAN TO RETAIN MAIDEN NAME.

"There is no law which makes it mandatory for a woman to take her husband's name, and there is no court decision denying her right to retain her own name. That which is not prohibited by law and does not injure the rights of others is not against the law.

POINT II.

AUTHORITIES SUPPORT PROPOSITION THAT MARRIED WOMAN NOT OBLIGED TO TAKE HUSBAND'S NAME.

"In *State v. Walker*, 36 Kansas 311 (decided by the Supreme Court of Kansas), Chief Justice Horton said of a woman who retained her maiden name, but who had apparently contracted a valid marriage, although she had violated the marriage law regarding procedure: 'If Lillian Harman desires to retain her own name, I can perceive no objection to her doing so.'

"In *Jones v. Kohler*, 137 Indiana 528, the court speaks of a woman 'changing her name by assuming that of a * * * husband.'

"If the name is changed by assuming that of a husband, then if the wife does not assume the husband's name (as in the case before the Comptroller-General), no change in name takes place.

"It is a doctrine of general acceptance that transactions by a married woman in her maiden name are good in law. For instance, in the Wisconsin case of *Lane v. Duchac et al*, 41 N. W. 962, we find the court saying: 'It is not true that a fictitious payee and mortgagee is named in the note and mortgage. Barbara M. Rhyner is not a fictitious person, but a person in esse. True, since her marriage she is entitled to the name of her husband, Zentner, but we are aware of no law that will invalidate obligations or conveyances executed by her and to her in her baptismal name, if she chooses to give or take them in that form.'

"A judgment obtained against a married woman in her maiden name affecting real estate standing in that name is valid. *Emery v. Kipp*, 154 Cal. 83. A deed to a married woman in her maiden name is valid. *Scanlan v. Wright*, 13 Pickering (Mass.) 523. Likewise a judgment in favor of a married woman in the name by which she is known and goes by professionally will be upheld. *Parmelee v. Raymond*, 43 Ill. App. 609.

"Under a South Carolina statute giving the court power, in its discretion, to decree a change of name, it was held even as far back as 1856 that the court

has power to decree a change in the wife's name over the objection of her husband. However, no aid was given the wife where it appeared that no pecuniary benefits would result to her from the change and that it would close the door to reconciliation between her and her husband from whom she was separated. It is to be noted that the court in making this decision declared that 'in general wives have surnames by courtesy only, adopted from their husbands.' *Converse v. Converse*, 9 Richardson's Equity Reports, pp. 535, 570.

"In the English case of *Cowley v. Cowley* (1901), A. C. 450, Lord Cowley sought to restrain his divorced wife, who had become the wife of a commoner, from using the name and title of 'Countess Cowley.' The relief was not granted. Lord Lindley of the House of Lords said: 'The controversy between the parties is thus reduced to a dispute about the use of a name as distinguished from a dignity. Speaking generally, the law of this country allows any person to assume and use any name, provided its use is not calculated to deceive and to inflict pecuniary loss.'

"This language tends to recognize the right of the wife to go by a name other than that of her husband.

"It is a very common practice in England for peeresses (not being peeresses in their own right) after marrying commoners to retain the name and title of the first husband and not to accept that of the second husband. *Cowley v. Cowley* (1901), A. C. 450.

"We are told that 'if a duchesse by marriage marrieth a baron of the realme, she remaineth a duchesse and loseth not her name * * *'. Coke upon Littleton 1 (16b).

"The language used in 30 Corpus Juris, page 511, shows that it is only a custom for the wife to take the husband's name and that one is not bound to follow a custom. For example, it is pointed out that since at common law a person may lawfully change his name, there is no legal objection to the adoption by the husband of the wife's family name should he so desire.

"In *re Snook*, 2 Hilt (N. Y.) 566, we are told that though it is the custom for a man to bear the name of his parents, there is no law prohibiting him from taking another name if he chooses.

POINT III.

"In view of the fact that a married woman is not prohibited from retaining her maiden name by the common law, or by the statutes of any state or the District of Columbia, or by any court decision or by any legal authority anywhere under our system of jurisprudence; and in view of the further fact that it is almost a universal custom to accept the wife's maiden name as her actual name when she elects to retain it, and that numerous court decisions uphold the validity of contracts, deeds, pleadings, judgments and decrees in the maiden name of a married woman, it is respectfully submitted that a married woman's right to retain her maiden name should be recognized, and the ruling of the Comptroller-General should be reversed.

(Signed)

"BURNITA SHELTON MATTHEWS,
"For the Woman's Party."

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

EDITH AINGE: Treasurer

NETTIE TRAIL: Auditor: C. P. A.

RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7th, 1912, to September 1st, 1924, \$1,267,002.86.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, Sept. 1st, 1924, to September 1, 1924: (Half of membership fees are retained by the State Headquarters. The half of these fees sent to National Headquarters are listed below):

Mrs. Anne Archbold, D. C.	\$500.00
Col. Robert M. Thompson, N. Y.	250.00
Mrs. Stephen H. P. Pell, N. Y.	100.00
Mrs. Kate Campbell Robertson, Tenn.	10.00
Dr. Stephen Wise, N. Y.	25.00
Mrs. J. C. Tufford, Mich.	5.00
Mrs. Mary C. Bartos, Mont.	1.00
Mrs. I. W. Choate, Mont.	1.00
Mrs. H. N. Kennedy, Mont.	1.00
Mrs. William Chambers, Ore.	1.00
Mrs. A. C. Newell, Ore.	1.00
Mrs. Katherine Duncan, Ore.	1.00
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Miss Belle Kearney, Miss.	1.00
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Miss Stephanie Schach, Md.	1.00
Miss Gilbert A. Cone, D. C.	1.00
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Mrs. F. Winthrop White, Conn.	1.00
Miss Marguerite Prevey, Ohio.	1.00
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Mrs. A. Z. Hoag, Ill.	1.00
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Miss Catherine Meyer, Ill.	1.00
Miss Margery Latimes, Wis.	1.00
Miss Alice H. Belknap, N. Y.	1.00
Sale of literature	2.05
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	69.50
Advertising in Equal Rights and in program	25.50
Sale of photographs and posters	.75

Total receipts, September 1 to September 10, 1924.....\$1,086.80
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to September 10, 1924.....\$1,268,089.60

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